

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 04735 251114Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 /066 W

----- 101344

R 250933Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1582

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4735

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SN, ID

SUBJECT: SUHARTO INVITATION TO LEE KUAN YEW

1. DEPUTY UK HIGH COMMISSIONER WATTS HAS ADVISED CHARGE THAT BRITISH EMBASSY JAKARTA REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT SUHARTO INVITED PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW SEVERAL WEEKS AGO TO VISIT JAKARTA FOR GOLF AND INFORMAL TALKS. ACCORDING WATTS INDONESIANS ARE RATHER MIFFED THAT LEE HAS NOT YET REPLIED TO THIS INVITATION.

2. COMMENT. BELIEVE IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT FORMER AMBASSADOR TO JAKARTA K.C. LEE MAY HAVE TRANSMITTED THIS INVITATION ON HIS RETURN TO SINGAPORE FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF HIS TOUR OF DUTY. EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT LIKELY THAT HIS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED SUCCESSOR RAHIM ISHAK WILL PROBABLY CONVEY LEE'S ANSWER WHEN HE PRESENTS HIS CREDENTIALS SOMETIME IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. WHILE PRIME MINISTER LEE IS ALMOST CERTAINLY DESIROUS OF MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH SUHARTO, HE MAY ALSO FEEL THAT IT IS PREMATURE FOR HIM TO PAY AN INFORMAL VISIT TO JAKARTA SO SOON AFTER SUHARTO'S FORMAL VISIT TO SINGAPORE AT THE END OF AUGUST. LEE MAY ALSO THINK SUCH AN EARLY RETURN VISIT WOULD NOT BE WELL RECEIVED IN KUALA LUMPUR. FURTHERMORE, BY DELAYING HIS REPLY LEE MAY HOPE TO CONVEY A MESSAGE TO SUHARTO THAT HE IS UNWILLING TO RESPOND TOO EAGERLY TO INVITATIONS FROM LARGE POWERFUL NEIGHBORS.

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PAGE 02 SINGAP 04735 251114Z

UNFORTUNATELY, IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING THIS POINT LEE MAY ALSO

CONVEY AN IMPRESSION OF RUDENESS AND ARROGANCE FOR WHICH HE
AND SOME OTHER SINGAPORE LEADERS AND OFFICIALS ARE REGRETTABLY
RENOWNED. GRANT

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 25 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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